

RIVER MURRAY FLOW REPORT

Public I2 A2

Report #33/2013

Issued 10:00 am 23 August 2013

This supersedes the previous flow report issued by the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) on 16 August 2013. The next flow report will be provided on Friday, 30 August 2013.

FLOW OUTLOOK

Catchments remain saturated from recent rainfall events, with high inflows occurring across the upper Murray catchments. There is a Minor Flood Warning in place for the Kiewa and Goulburn Rivers in Victoria. Releases from Hume and Dartmouth Reservoirs have increased to manage airspace to minimise the potential impacts of spill on downstream communities. On 21 August 2013, Hume Reservoir was holding 91 per cent capacity and Dartmouth 98 per cent. If rainfall continues it will increase the probability of spill.

The flow at the South Australian border is approximately 15 000 ML/day and will remain around this rate during the coming week, depending on upstream operations and rainfall events. The flow comprises the August Entitlement Flow of 4 000 ML/day plus unregulated flow. Due to recent rainfall events and the current operation of Lake Victoria, South Australia will receive unregulated flow until at least mid September 2013.

The flow over Lock 1 is approximately 13 500 ML/day and will remain around this rate during the coming week, depending on weather conditions and extractions.

It is important to note that flow forecasts in this advice are based on the information available at the time of preparation. They may change as new gauging information becomes available, or due to rainfall events or changed operations upstream. Flow forecasts are dependent on predictions made by the Bureau of Meteorology, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and water management agencies in upstream jurisdictions. They will be revised as new information becomes available.

BARRAGE OPERATIONS AND WATER LEVELS IN THE LOWER LAKES

The water level in Lake Alexandrina is approximately 0.82 m AHD and approximately 0.84 m AHD in Lake Albert. During the coming week, barrage operations will target a water level between 0.70 m AHD and 0.75 m AHD in both Lakes. Barrage releases are being prioritised through the Goolwa and Tauwichee barrages to maintain an open and functioning Murray Mouth. All barrage fishways are in operation and are being supplemented with attractant flows in adjacent bays.

Over the last week, barrage operations have been undertaken to reduce seawater entering Lake Alexandrina. In periods of adverse conditions (tides, swell and winds) seawater is likely to overtop the barrages and enter Lake Alexandrina. SA Water will continue to operate the barrages to strategically remove seawater from the lake and minimise any negative salinity impacts from reverse flow events during these conditions.

To see live salinity data at various locations on the River Murray and in the Lower Lakes, please refer to the following website: <http://www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx>

Water levels and barrage operations are monitored closely by various agencies of the South Australian Government, Murray-Darling Basin Authority and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office.

NAVIGATION ISSUES

Sandbars in the vicinity of the Murray Mouth may cause navigation hazards. Mariners are advised to navigate with caution when operating in the area. Sandbars are also present along sections of the River Murray in South Australia and all watercraft should be aware and regularly check the river depth. The high flows during 2011-12 and 2012-13 have resulted in the deposition of sediments at some locations creating new sandbars.



CONSTRUCTION WORKS

Currency Creek

The Currency Creek Regulator is being removed by Maritime Constructions Pty Ltd. The removal works are progressing well, with the dredging component of the project now complete. Water based works are continuing and should be completed in August 2013.

Chowilla

Construction of the Chowilla Creek Environmental Regulator and associated structures is ongoing. For public safety reasons the Chowilla Creek remains closed to navigation at the construction site. Works are also underway on upgrading the weir on Pipeclay Creek at Chowilla to improve the management of flows into the Chowilla anabranch and to enable fish passage. Public access around the weir will be restricted during this construction program.

RIVER MURRAY IRRIGATORS - update your email address for improved service

If you would like quicker, easier and more efficient communication with DEWNR regarding water licensing matters, please phone (08) 8595 2053 or send details of your email or updated email address to DEWNRWatertrade@sa.gov.au

Benefits include:

- ☒ Irrigation reports sent direct to you
- ☒ Report returns can be submitted online
- ☒ Less paper in your in-tray
- ☒ Correspondence is quicker than traditional mail

RIVER MURRAY WATER LEVELS

Below is a table of River Murray water levels at a number of locations from Lock 10 (near Wentworth) to Murray Bridge.

River Murray Water Levels as at 21 August 2013

Location	River km	Normal Pool Level	Current Level (m AHD)	1974 Flood Level (m AHD)	1993 Flood Level (m AHD)
Lock 10	825.0	30.80	30.82	33.81	33.32
Lock 9 Kulnine	764.8	27.40	27.55	30.03	29.44
Lock 8 Wangumma	725.7	24.60	24.89	27.60	27.19
Lock 7 Rufus River	696.6	22.10	22.12	25.70	25.24
Lock 6 Murtho	619.8	19.25	19.30	21.03	20.50
Renmark	567.4	-	16.37	18.54	18.04
Lock 5	562.4	16.30	16.35	18.07	17.50
Lyrup	537.8	-	13.33	16.85	16.26
Berri	525.9	-	13.25	15.81	15.74
Lock 4	516.2	13.20	13.23	15.65	15.08
Loxton	489.9	-	10.42	15.05	14.12
Cobdogla	446.9	-	9.88	13.44	12.38
Lock 3	431.4	9.80	9.76	13.16	12.02
Overland Corner	425.9	-	6.57	12.73	11.58
Waikerie	383.6	-	6.29	11.26	10.24
Lock 2	362.1	6.10	6.06	10.28	9.30
Cadell	332.6	-	3.57	9.17	8.08
Morgan	321.7	-	3.47	8.85	7.65
Lock 1 Blanchetown	274.2	3.20	3.23	6.81	5.38
Swan Reach	245.0	0.75	0.95	6.06	4.51
Mannum PS	149.8	0.75	0.85	3.15	1.90
Murray Bridge	115.3	0.75	0.88	2.06	1.26

Note that the above water levels may be affected by local wind conditions.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

The Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources has published a series of inundation maps for the River Murray. They are available at: www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMIM/

Up-to-date River Murray flow and water level information can be accessed at the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, SA Water and Murray-Darling Basin Authority websites:

www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

www.mdba.gov.au/water/live-river-data

Details of river height and rainfall information in the River Murray within Victoria and New South Wales are available at the Bureau of Meteorology website: <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood>

Information on the discharge of acid drainage water into the Lower River Murray can be accessed online at:

http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/environmental_info/water_quality/acid_sulfate_soils_ass/lower_river_murray_reclaimed_irrigation_area_lmria

Information provided by the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office can be accessed at:

www.environment.gov.au/ewater/southern/murray/lower-murray.html

Information on The Living Murray can be accessed at:

www.mdba.gov.au/programs/tlm/

Regularly updated daily water level information can be found at the following websites:

SA Water

www.sawater.com.au/SAWater/Environment/TheRiverMurray/River+Murray+Levels.htm

Information is also available from the SA Water Hotline on **08 8595 2299**

Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

www.waterconnect.sa.gov.au/RMWD/Pages/default.aspx

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/Home>

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